purpose, I also believe Berkowitz was nothing more than one of their hitmen."

In addition, Berkowitz verified a report that had languished in NYPD's files since the days following his arrest—when a witness stated she saw him with one "Father Lars" at the Process' Manhattan headquarters. "It's true. I was there with him," Berkowitz said of the report, which was ignored by the NYPD.

Berkowitz said he had a reason to visit the group's headquarters: "They had a big role in all of it." Specifically, he charged that the overall plan for a series of shootings was brainstormed during a surreal meeting at Moloch's White Plains-area home in the spring of 1976. Present at the meeting, Berkowitz said, were at least eight Process leaders and members, along with "some friends of theirs" and "at least two" lower-ranked members of the Westchester cult —including himself.

"They tossed different ideas around," Berkowitz said. "One of them was to kidnap young girls and kill them in cemeteries. Another was to copy the Manson thing in rich neighborhoods. But the goal was to paralyze New York, and they eventually decided on the .44 shootings."

"Did they ever say they were involved in the Manson killings?" I asked. "Yes, they did," he replied.

Berkowitz didn't know it, but I'd surfaced new evidence connecting Manson to the Process. A jailed Manson killer told me Charlie's "family" met Process

leaders at the "Spiral Staircase" house near Los Angeles in 1968. Manson himself confirmed this statement in his autobiography. In a clear reference to the English group, he wrote that he met individuals who worshiped "multiple devils" at the very house in question.

Additionally, I viewed a letter Manson wrote in 1989. In his own hand, he described another occasion where he met named Process leaders. Incredibly, he said this gathering actually took place at the Tate home—the scene of future slaughter.

Manson has also claimed a child pornography element bubbled somewhere in the Tate tableau. This factor was also present in the Son of Sam operation, a phase Berkowitz addressed when I interviewed him again in 1997 for New York's WABC-TV. The program, a four-part series coordinated by news director Bart Feder and reporter Sarah Wallace, was expanded to a one-hour special which later aired nationally on the A&E network's *Investigative Reports.*

"The Process was very sophisticated and dedicated," Berkowitz told me. "They had their hands in a lot of things, including drugs and that disgusting child pornography. They also provided kids for sex to some wealthy people, and I did see some of those people at parties."

According to Berkowitz, these sex and drug soirees were held at upscale private residences in Westchester, Manhattan, Connecticut and Long Island's Hamptons. His telephone records, which documented calls to the

Hamptons and to the Long Island summer homes of two Yonkers doctors, partially supported his statement. Further, two witnesses maintained that occasionally present at these parties were a Yonkers judge, at least two Westchester County politicians, a high-ranking New York state politician, a celebrated but later-murdered physician, a Nobel Prize-winning doctor, and two aides (one prominent) to then-mayor of New York City Abraham Beame.

Berkowitz also revealed that he met Roy Cohn, the powerful and notorious attorney who once represented—besides numerous other "high-society" clients—art dealer Andrew Crispo and the owners of the glamorous but scandal-ridden Studio 54 discotheque.

"I was at a party at that big house he had in Greenwich [Connecticut]," Berkowitz said of Cohn, who died of AIDS in 1986. "I didn't know him, but other people did, and that's how I went to a party there."

Berkowitz also said he attended a party at Roy Radin's mansion in Southampton, Long Island. "I hardly knew him on a personal basis, but I did know some other people who knew him," he remarked. Berkowitz added that two of those "other people," close associates of Radin, were in fact at the final Son of Sam attack in Brooklyn, as alleged by the prison informants.

"There were three people in a van across the street, and they did film the shooting," Berkowitz said, confirming the sensational "snuff film" allegations. "And

it's true that two of them were good friends of Radin. One of them was Ron Sisman. He was the one with the camera."

Sisman, the cocaine dealer and pornographer, was executed in his Manhattan brownstone Halloween 1981. His companion, coed Elizabeth Platzman, was also shot dead. "I knew Sisman, and I had been at his place with

Mike [Carr]," Berkowitz said. "Some of the group also hung out at a bar near there." This pub, which Sisman also frequented, was called the Angry Squire.

Berkowitz's claim was corroborated by a young man who also dropped by the Angry Squire now and then. Jesse Turner, a jailed bank robber, was an admitted Process associate. "In the early '70s, I lived with some of them in a house in the French Quarter in New Orleans," he said. "They were brokering kids, and their rituals were wall-to-wall sex and drugs. I also witnessed a murder they did in Bayou St. John. It was one of their own. They bled him to death and got rid of the body."

Turner said he continued his interactions with the British group in New York. "I was also a good friend of Michael Carr," Turner stated. "About halfway into it I learned the Process was behind Son of Sam. They called it one of their 'Apocalyptic Trials,' which meant a major public display of violence."

Turner was also a close associate of Robert Mapplethorpe, the controversial homoerotic photographer and sculptor who died of AIDS in 1989.

"I lived with Robert and [rock singer] Patti Smith for awhile when they were a couple," Turner said. "Robert thought he was the devil. He was affiliated with the Process, but not strictly a member. But they used each other."

Turner, who was debriefed extensively by NYPD and Yonkers detectives in 1996, stated that Mapplethorpe approached him for a favor in 1981. "It was for the Process. Robert told me Sisman had some snuff films, and they wanted them back. I knew the Moskowitz [Son of Sam] film was one of them."

Turner said he recruited two gunmen, who killed Sisman and Platzman and retrieved five snuff films, one of which was Sisman's copy of the Moskowitz tape. NYPD detectives questioned the two alleged killers in 1996. According to official sources, one of them "miserably failed" a polygraph test and the other was graded "deceptive" because he "tried to beat the machine."

The pair then hired lawyers, but the probe suddenly screeched to a halt. NYPD authorities said they lacked enough evidence to make arrests. However, an unidentified federal agent advised WABC-TV that the department's brass shut down the investigation when they discovered it led to the Son of Sam case.

Meanwhile, the Yonkers police found their own efforts hampered by the NYPD. Law enforcement sources in Manhattan revealed that NYPD officials

ignored a top-level Yonkers request for access to its Son of Sam files.

Nonetheless, the Yonkers police made considerable progress. More cult members and associates were identified, and witnesses placed Berkowitz with others in Untermyer Park. The Yonkers inquiry also cast light on the group's "business interests." Specifically, despite the occult flavoring and the satanic fervor demonstrated by Berkowitz and others on the lower rungs of the ladder, the police determined that perks from the sex and drug businesses were of far more significance to the hierarchy.

I agreed with that evaluation, which was an avenue initially paved by one of the prison informants in 1981 when he wrote that the group's drug and porn connections were key. So, what finally emerged was a loose confederation of allies—including the Process, the aligned preexisting Westchester cult, biker elements, perverse political and society types and assorted hangers-on. Additionally, a contingent of pimps, many of whom have now been identified, served up young runaways and other wayward adolescents for use at monied sex parties.

In other words, the Son of Sam killings and a litany of other offenses grew out of a subculture melded together—at varying times for overlapping reasons—by sex, drugs, violence, weapons dealings and occult practices.

In 1997 and 1998, I asked Berkowitz about some other crimes I suspected were tied to the cult group and referenced earlier in this book. Here is a brief summary of his replies:

—The May 1976 firebombing of the Neto home on Wicker St. in Berkowitz's neighborhood. A witness had told me she heard one participant calling to another. "I was involved in that with someone else," Berkowitz said. He also said he had a hand in shooting the Neto family's dog on Christmas Eve of that year. "Someone was with me," he said, confirming witnesses' accounts.

—The October 1976 wounding of a young woman by shots fired into Westchester's Candle Light Inn. A bartender told me he threw out Berkowitz, Michael Carr" and their friend "Bobby" minutes earlier. The bullets were fired from the same model of revolver owned by the Carrs. "Yeah, we did it," Berkowitz said.

—The wounding of the Carr dog in April 1977. "It wasn't me, but someone else in the group did it," Berkowitz said. At the time, a witness said the shooter had blondish hair.

—The sniper wounding of sixteen-year-old Lisa Gottlieb in her Westchester home in May 1977. "I wasn't involved in that, but I believe another one of the group was," Berkowitz said.

—The suicide of Yonkers mailman Andrew Dupay six weeks after Berkowitz's arrest. "I just knew who he was, and I'm sorry to hear about it," Berkowitz commented. "But I'm not surprised to hear he was threat-

ened. Delivering mail in that neighborhood, the poor guy could have seen things he shouldn't have."

—The Westchester murder of Maria Cortina (Suzette Rodriguez) two months after Berkowitz's arrest. She was sketched by Billy the artist the year before. "I knew her from Untermyer," said Berkowitz, who also identified the drawing.

—The November 1977 sniper slaying of thirteen-year-old Natalie Gallace and wounding of thirty-eight-year-old Susan Levy in New Rochelle. The chief suspect, Frank Signorelli, died in 1980 while in jail on another charge. "I knew Frank from here and there," Berkowitz said. "And I think you might find out he knew Sue Levy from panics or whatever."

—The murder of Robert Hirschmann in Dutchess County, New York, in early 1978. The body of Hirschmann's wife was found in Queens. "His name is very familiar, but not hers," Berkowitz stated.

—The murder of Joseph Carozza on his yacht in a New Rochelle marina on New Year's Eve 1981. "I knew him. I was on his yacht, and so were some others in the group," Berkowitz said.

Besides those cases, others also died violently, their connections to the cult not known until the 1990s. Among them:

— *William Fitzgerald.* Six days before Berkowitz's arrest, Fitzgerald was slain in an apparent murder-suicide by James McIntyre in a Yonkers apartment located several blocks from Pine Street. "I knew Billy

somewhat," Berkowitz remarked. "But I'm not sure about the other guy."

—*Dawn Koons.* A former north Yonkers bartender, Koons was murdered in Bakersfield, California, in early 1979. The case remains unsolved. "I knew Dawn from Untermyer," Berkowitz said.

—*Ralph Marcel.* A Yonkers resident whom witnesses placed in the group, Marcel was called "Brother Ed," a Process title. Marcel was run down by a car in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, in June 1981. The auto was driven by a Long Island resident. The case was ruled an accident. "I knew Ralph from around Yonkers and Untermyer," Berkowitz stated.

—*J. D. Cann.* A Yonkers resident who lived in Berkowitz's apartment building in 1977, Cann committed suicide in late 1998. A witness told police that Cann occasionally drove the yellow Volkswagen. According to the witness, after Berkowitz's arrest Cann told coworkers he needed to obtain a gun because people were after him. "It's going to be them or me," the witness quoted Cann as saying. Berkowitz remarked: "Cann belonged to the group, but he wasn't at any of the .44 shootings."

It is highly doubtful that this list, augmented by the names of others noted previously in this book, is complete.

My opinion is buttressed by one disturbing fact: the Process still exists. It has changed its name several times, and today it hides behind its most recent

"socially acceptable" cover. But beneath this benign mask, it is still the Process. It has accumulated millions of dollars in extensive real-estate holdings, and from a remote enclave far from New York, it continues to solicit not only a naive celebrity set, but also an unknowing general public.

The original British faction of the group, which has remained almost entirely intact since the 1960s, abandoned New York shortly after Berkowitz's capture. Records show that the cult next infested Atlanta. Curiously, within a year, that city's infamous string of child murders began.

In a tableau similar to the Son of Sam investigation, the group's main body exited Georgia after Wayne Williams was charged as a lone killer and convicted of the slayings of two adults. However, without any subsequent trial, authorities also conveniently closed the books on more than twenty child murders, blaming the protesting Williams for all of them.

Recently, a few of Atlanta's top investigators changed their minds. In 1998, they told NEC's *Dateline* that they believed Williams was innocent of the children's homicides. But there is another official appraisal no one has ever sought—that of a prominent former assistant U.S. attorney, a man who has been a Process member since the early 1970s.

Meanwhile, as time moves forward, the faint hoofbeats of oncoming eternity echo slightly louder with the passing of each year. It is perhaps the only eventual

rendezvous one can gauge with certainty. The arrival of truth, however, is sometimes more fluid, more subject to interpretation. But not in this instance.

In 1998, the Yonkers Police Department reached a foreboding determination in its contemporary Son of Sam investigation. The verdict, which mirrored my own conclusion and that of the former Queens district attorney, can be summed up in one word. It is a single word, but it enunciates volumes about the true story behind one of the biggest cases in the annals of modern crime.

It is a word that will stand. It is a word that will not be altered by future events as it resonates through the corridors of criminal history in America.

The word is *conspiracy.*